

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 SS-15 SP-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9749

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 0952

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: PRESS TREATMENT OF VANCE'S ANTI-PROTECTIONISM
SPEECH

1. ALL PAPERS TODAY CARRY WIRE-SERVICE ACCOUNTS OF VANCE'S
FEBRUARY 27 SPEECH TO NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION WARNING
THAT "PROTECTIONISM IS A DANGEROUS GAMBLE IN WHICH EVERYBODY
LOSES".

2. WE ISSUED LENGTHY EXCERPTS FROM WIRELESS FILE (EPF-4)
YESTERDAY TO ALL MEDIA AND SELECTED ARS PRIMARY.

3. "BUSINESS TIMES" (SINGAPORE'S LOCAL WALL STREET JOURNAL,
CIRCULATION 4,000) GREETED VANCE'S REMARKS THIS MORNING WITH
FOLLOWING EDITORIAL:

4. "THE VERY SIZE OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT MACHINE
PERMITS A WIDE VARIETY OF CONFLICTING POLICY STATEMENTS TO
BE MADE. THOUGH IN ITSELF POSSIBLY A HEALTHY SIGN, THIS
CAN BE VERY CONFUSING FOR THOSE WHO ARE NOT TOO FAMILIAR
WITH THE AMERICAN SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT OR WAY OF LIFE.
HOWEVER, WHEN THE UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF STATE
MAKES AN UNADORNED AND UNQUALIFIED STATEMENT, IT
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MUST BE TAKEN BY THE REST OF US TO MEAN EXACTLY
WHAT IT SAYS. AND MR. CYRUS VANCE HAS DONE NO LESS
THAN DECLARE UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT THE UNITED STATES
WILL NOT ADOPT PROTECTIONISM AS A WAY OUT OF ITS
PRESENT TRADE TROUBLES.

THERE IS NO DOUBTING THE POWER OF THE AMERICAN
LABOUR UNIONS OR THEIR INTENTION TO FORCE THROUGH

PROTECTION OF SPECIFIC INDUSTRIES. EQUALLY IT IS
CLEAR THAT CERTAIN DOMESTIC MARKET PRODUCERS ARE
CURRENTLY SUPPORTING THE UNIONS.
BUT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION POINTS OUT FORCIBLY
THAT PROTECTING ONE SECTOR OF INDUSTRY CAN BE DAMAGING
TO THE PROFIT AND EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS OF ANOTHER.
REJECTING THE "DANGEROUS GAMBLE IN WHICH EVERYBODY
LOSES," MR. VANCE INDICATED THAT THE US GOVERNMENT
IS LOOKING FOR TRADE EQUITY AND STABILITY THROUGH
MULTI-LATERAL NEGOTIATIONS AIMED AT VOLUNTARY
AGREEMENTS BETWEEN NATIONS AND THE ENFORCEMENT OF
EXISTING INTERNATIONAL ACCORDS."
STRYKER

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